

There are particularly severe problems associated with the deployment of the CAST brigade to northern Norway. The force requires some weeks to reach Norway, making timely deployment questionable, and it cannot make an opposed landing. Moreover, once deployed, it would be extremely difficult to reinforce and resupply, particularly after the start of hostilities....If these commitments in northern Norway were to be met fully and effectively, the deficiencies cited above would have to be rectified. This could only be done at great cost....The Government has concluded that consolidation in southern Germany is the best way to achieve a more credible, effective and sustainable contribution to the common defence in Europe.<sup>5</sup>

The withdrawal of the Canadian commitment will not become effective, however, until another NATO country agrees to fulfill the role. The Canadian commitment to provide two squadrons of Rapid Reinforcement fighters to northern Norway will also be switched to southern Germany. As a result of these changes, Canada will have a "division-sized force" in Central Europe in a crisis. Equipment for the brigade will be pre-positioned and new tanks will be purchased.

### Parliamentary Comment

Several petitions were presented to the House protesting the NATO low level flying exercises at Goose Bay. The petitions state that the low-level flying exercises cause damage to the environment and disrupt the lives of native peoples in the area.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> DND, Challenge and Commitment, 5 June 1987, p. 61.

<sup>6</sup> See: Commons Debates, 10 Oct. 1986, p. 287; 2 Dec., p. 1677; 3 Dec., p. 1755; 9 Dec., p. 1906; 12 Dec., pp. 2058-59; 17 Dec., p. 2208; 19 Dec., p. 2306; 19 Jan. 1987, p. 2343; 21 Jan., p. 2520; 22 Jan., p. 2542; 23 Jan., pp. 2648, 2650; 30 Jan., p. 2928; 3 Feb., p. 3010; 6 Feb., pp. 3191-92; 13 Feb., p. 3416; 18 Feb., p. 3568; 15 May, p. 6150; 27 May, p. 6450; 19 June 1987, p. 7400; 26 June, p. 7686.